**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE****Applicant(s):** Tsunao HONBO**Group Art** 2622**Serial No.:** 09/842,888**Examiner:** SHERRILL, Jason L.**Filed:** April 26, 2001**For:** APPARATUS AND ITS CONTROL METHOD**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT****RECEIVED****AUG 02 2004****Technology Center 2600**

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The items listed on Form PTO-1449, a copy of which is enclosed, are made of record to assist the Patent and Trademark Office in its examination of this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider the items and to independently ascertain their teaching.

1. ☒ For each of the following items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, an English language translation of that item or a portion thereof or a concise explanation of the relevance of that item is enclosed:

Abstracts are provided as follows:

For Item A, JPA4-142865, English Abstract - Item AA;

For Item B, JPA11-239244, an English Abstract -Item BB;

For Item C, JPA11-355570, an English Abstract -Item CC; and

For Item D, JPA2001-166398, an English Abstract -Item DD;

2. ☐ For each of the following items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, a concise explanation of the relevance of that item is incorporated in the specification of the above-identified application.
3. ☐ Any copy of the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement was previously cited by or submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office in application Serial No. _____, filed _____.
4. ☒ No fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with:
- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1), within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a CPA; or

- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(2), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application; or
- ☒ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3), before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits; or
- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(4) before the mailing date of a first office action after the filing of an RCE under §1.114.
5. ☐ No fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), after the period specified in paragraph 4 above but before the mailing date of a final action or a Notice of Allowance (where there has been no prior final action), and is accompanied by one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) set forth in paragraph 9 below.
6. ☐ A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), after the period specified in paragraph 4 above but before the mailing date of a final action or a notice of allowance (where there has been no prior final action):
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed in payment of the fee.
- ☐ Charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. _____. A
DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.
7. ☐ A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d), after the mailing date of a final action or a notice of allowance, whichever comes first, but before payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by:
- a. one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) set forth in paragraph 9 below; and
- b. the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) which is paid as set forth in paragraph 11 below.
8. ☐ A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with:
- a. ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.313(b)(3) or §1.313(c)(1), after the issue fee has been paid and information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement may render at least one claim unpatentable and is accompanied by the attached Petition To Withdraw Application From Issue and fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.17(h);
- b. ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.313(c)(2) or §1.313(c)(3), after the issue fee has been paid and information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement is to be considered in a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) or a Continuation application upon abandonment of the instant application and is accompanied by the attached Petition To Withdraw Application From Issue and fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.17(h).

- c. ☐ The fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.17(h) and 1.17(p) are paid as set forth in paragraph 11 below.
9. ☒ I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☐ I hereby certify that no item of information in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
10. ☒ This document is accompanied by ☒ a Search Report ☐ Communication which was cited in a corresponding ☐ PCT or ☒ Foreign counterpart application (Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-378039).
11. ☐ A check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed in payment of the fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.17(h) and 1.17(p).
- ☐ Charge the fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.17(h) and 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. _____. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Information Disclosure Statement, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4711.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: July 23, 2004

By:


Stephen J. Manetta

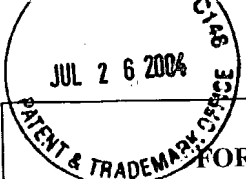
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 FORM PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION		Attorney Docket: 1232-4711		Serial No.: 09/842,888			
		Applicant: Tsunao HONBO					
		Filing Date: April 26, 2001		Group Art Unit: 2622			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial		Patent Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub-Class	Filing Date
	1.						
	2.						
	3.						
	4.						
	5.						
	6.						
	7.						
	8.						
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial		Patent Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub-Class	Translation
	A	4-142865	05/05/92	JAPAN			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	B	11-239244	08/31/99	JAPAN			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	C	11-355570	12/24/99	JAPAN			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	D	2001-166398	06/22/01	JAPAN			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	E						<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, etc.)							
	AA	English Abstract for JPA4 142865					
	BB	English Abstract for JPA11-239244					
	CC	English Abstract for JPA11-355570					
	DD	English Abstract for JPA2001-166398					
	EE	Copy of Office Action dated April 27, 2004 issued in counterpart Japanese Application No. 2000-127752.					
	FF						
Examiner				Date Considered			
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.							